

# Blackbeard Island

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

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*Sharon Lindsay*

Blackbeard Island NWR is one of seven refuges administered as part of the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex. It has been under federal ownership since 1800 and formally a national wildlife refuge since 1940. Today, the refuge's 5,618 acres include maritime forest, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, and beach habitat. In 1975, 3,000 acres of the refuge were set aside as National Wilderness. As one of Georgia's barrier islands, the refuge provides protection to the coastline and habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including summertime nesting sea turtles, and year-round shorebird activity.

Blackbeard Island was named for Edward Teach, alias Blackbeard the Pirate. Rumors of Blackbeard's buried treasure still flourish, but no evidence of his fortune has been discovered.

### **Visitor Opportunities**

- Hiking and biking trails
- Wildlife observation
- Wildlife photography
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Daytime beach use
- Saltwater kayaking
- Saltwater fishing
- Scheduled hunts

**Restrooms, drinking water,  
and shelter not available**

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Hours of Operation

7 days a week, sunrise to sunset (no overnight use)

### Fees

None

### Location

GPS Coordinates:

N 31° 29.350'

W 81° 12.571'

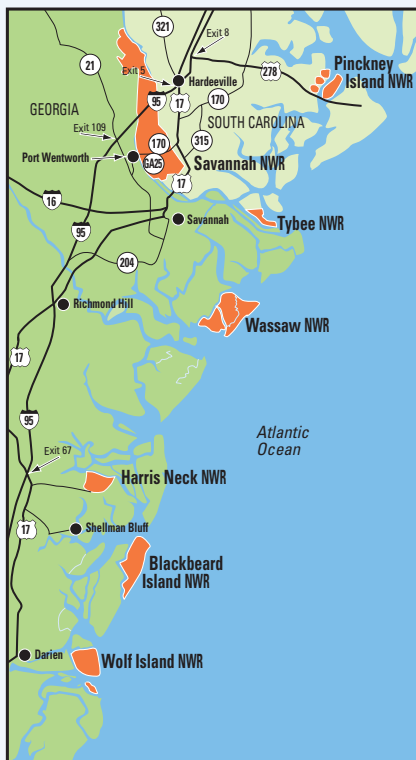
The only access to the refuge is by boat. Boat transportation is not provided, however, several commercial charter services provide day trips to the island. Visitors may also access the island by personal watercraft.

Refuge trail maps and public use information can be obtained online or by calling the Harris Neck NWR or Complex offices.

**Blackbeard Island NWR**  
**c/o Savannah Coastal**  
**Refuges Complex**  
**694 Beech Hill Lane**  
**Hardeeville, SC 29927**  
**Harris Neck NWR**  
**phone: 912/832 4608**  
**Complex phone:**  
**843/784 2468**

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*The blue goose is the symbol for the National Wildlife Refuge System.*



Monica Harris, Loggerhead sea turtle

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**<http://www.fws.gov/blackbeardisland>**